

national Council of Nurses the situation arising through more Nurses being trained in the Hospitals than there are positions for."

Miss Littleboy mentioned the apparently sudden change from the shortage of Nurses which was so recently the subject of a *Lancet* Commission to the present state, which from warnings in other countries and from knowledge of conditions among Private Nurses in this country, she said, was certainly a matter to be considered.

Miss Reynolds, Area Organiser of the College of Nursing, followed Miss Littleboy and made the difficulties of the situation as it affected smaller Hospitals and Nursing Homes very clear. Many members then joined in an animated and informing discussion.

The majority agreed that the situation was serious.

Suggestions made as to causes were:—The economic situation generally, especially the lack of accommodation in the smaller houses and flats used by professional people. The opening of Paying Wards in many Hospitals which, while causing a small increase in the Trained Staff, undoubtedly decreased work for Private Nurses. The tendency to employ half trained women who do more domestic work and take a lower fee than the Trained Nurse.

Legislation against this last evil was advocated as a remedy for unemployment by some members; reducing the number of Training Schools, and the staffing of smaller Hospitals and of all Nursing Homes by Fully Trained Nurses were other suggestions.

Miss Monk then opened the discussion on the importance of publicity in regard to Nursing and Nursing Education, pointing out that undoubtedly the knowledge that Nurses took part in public conferences and even had time occasionally to compete in Swimming and Tennis with one another had done something to show prospective candidates that Nursing was not all hard work and no play.

Miss Billingham followed and strongly advocated lectures on a Nurse's life to school girls and a linking up between the Nursing and Scholastic professions. She also pointed out that if Doctors and the Public could be made to realise the advantage of a Trained over an untrained Nurse and the danger of employing the latter in many cases, the surplus numbers of Trained Nurses would soon be absorbed.

Again a lively debate followed and the voting was in support of the findings of the International Council.

The Meeting was concluded by a social gathering in the College Dining Room, where Tea was served.

KENT COUNTY MENTAL HOSPITAL NURSES' LEAGUE, MAIDSTONE.

A unique and successful meeting of the Hospital Nurses' League was held in the Lounge of the Nurses' Home on Saturday evening last, the 24th February, which was the first of its kind.

The League was inaugurated at the Hospital early in the Summer of 1933. Its membership is entirely confined to past and present nurses who have received their training at this Hospital. (Up to date there are 56 Full Members and 77 Associate Members.) Owing, however, to the serious illness of the Home Sister, whose death occurred in October last, no meeting of the League was held until the above-mentioned date, when a large representation of the Members were present.

Dr. A. Coulter Hancock, M.C., M.B., Medical Superintendent, and Dr. H. Wolsey Lewis, M.D., late Medical Superintendent, honoured the meeting with their presence, and came specially to give the League their blessing. Both gave very stimulating addresses, a few extracts from which are as follows:—

Dr. Hancock said: "I have great pleasure in coming here to say a few words in support of Matron, and to bring for-

ward points in the formation of the League. Most of you know the objects and aims of the League.

The League is for the benefit of the Mental Nurse, and that is the sole object. It is not only for the female staff, but for the male staff as well. The male staff should realise that they are equal, and all working for the one object, solely for the benefit of the patients. The profession is the same, and it is our privilege and duty to do all in our power for them. The League should be supported by every Mental Nurse in the Country, not solely for mere material benefit but to further raise and uphold the standard. You here to-night, who are already Members, encourage your colleagues who enter the Service for training from time to time to join, not only from the point of view of meeting people and talking to them in a professional way, but show by your outlook and sympathetic understanding what a noble branch of the profession Mental Nursing is.

In conclusion, we are indebted to Matron and Dr. Wolsey Lewis for the position the nurses of this Hospital hold."

Dr. Wolsey Lewis in his opening remarks said:

"I am very grateful for the welcome given me. I have been interested for years in the question of Mental Hospital Nurses. The Nurses' Home is an indication of Matron's and my own study of the welfare of the Nurse. I feel that the good work is going on under the able leadership of your Medical Superintendent, Dr. Hancock, and Matron. I feel that the movement is in good hands. The Mental Hospital Nurse's job is very difficult, and perhaps distasteful at times, and it is most difficult to become a really efficient Mental Hospital Nurse.

The importance of the Mental Hospital Nurse is gaining ground every day. The public mind has become interested in Psychology, which is an essential part of training. Mental Nursing must in time take its rightful place.

In the old days Mental Nursing was considered the 'Cinderella' of the Profession—in the future, no nurse will be considered efficient until Psychology is part of her training. To the Mental Hospital Nurse every patient is an individual, and there is a great future ahead of her.

January, 1933, was the Centenary of this hospital. The improvement in the conditions is vast. The modern Mental Nurse has replaced the old 'Keeper.' Treatment of patients nowadays is on a very different footing; in place of brutality of the old days, modern Hospital treatment is given. The conditions of a hundred years ago would horrify the modern nurse.

The future of the Mental Hospital Nurse is in the younger nurses' hands. The standard and ideals that they keep will raise or lower the standard of the Nurse. Their duty is to keep up the standard of the Nurse, and follow the splendid example set them by their Matron."

Miss Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., President of the League, who was in the Chair, said that in her opinion it was a good augury for the success of the League having these two eminent gentlemen present on this occasion.

The Head Male Nurse and several of the Male Nursing Staff were also present.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Speakers was proposed by Sister Loe, seconded by Nurse Holdstock, and carried with acclamation.

NURSES' LEAGUE OF THE ROYAL ALEXANDRA INFIRMARY, PAISLEY.

The Winter Re-Union was well attended by former nurses, and the Executive were supported on the platform by ex-Provost Lang, Dr. Clow and Mr. George Hutton.

Miss Monie, as delegate, reported on the annual meeting of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, dwelling particularly on the Nightingale Foundation Fund. Owing to the necessary time for organisation it would be July before a meeting could be held in London to consider the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)